Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 20, 2001 TO AUGUST 24, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month / Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Consumer Price Index	July			Alberta's year-over-year inflation rate was 2.9% in July, a slowdown from the rates of 5.5% in June and 5.7% in May, primarily due to a 35.5% fall in natural gas prices. Excluding food and energy, the rate was 2.4%. On a year-over-year basis, the largest gains in Canada were in Saskatchewan (3.5%), Prince Edward Island (3.3%) and Ontario (3.1%). The CPI rose 2.6% from July 2000 to July 2001 in Canada, a slowdown from the rates of 3.3% in June and 3.9% in May. Excluding food and energy, the rate was 2.2%.
Alberta	121.6	-1.5%	2.9%	
Canada	117.1	-0.3%	2.6%	
Retail Sales ($millions)	June			Canadian retail sales fell 0.3% in June to $24.2 billion. Only two out of seven retail sectors posted higher sales, led by the furniture (1.6%) and general merchandise store (0.9%) sectors. Retail sales climbed in five provinces with Prince Edward Island (1.8%), British Columbia (0.8%) and Newfoundland (0.8%) showing the largest gains. Saskatchewan (-1.0%) and Ontario (-0.9%) had the largest declines. Alberta retail sales rose 0.4% in June to $2.9 billion.
Alberta	2,907	0.4%	10.9%	
Canada	24,232	-0.3%	5.2%	